[Translation]

Tapping of Telephone Talks

875. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA:

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are entitled for tapping of telephonic talks under the Indian Telegraph Act;

(b) if so, the matters to which the Government are entitled of telephone tapping and the posts of the officers empowered to issue directions for tapping telephonic talks;

(c) whether these officers use their discretionary power to issue directions and whether the Government have issued any rules, sub-rules and guidelines in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the proviso of Section 5(2) of the India Telegraph Act, 1885; on the occurance of any public emergency or in the interest of public safety when the Central Government or a State Government or any officer specially authorised in this behalf by the Central or State Government may intercept or detain a message or a class of messages. Secretary (Home) to the Cental Government/ State Government have been empowered to issue directions for tapping of telephones.

(c) and (d) Sir, the guidelines for interception are in the process of being notified. Presently the procedure as laid down by the Supreme Court is being followed.

[English]

Coastal Regulation Zone Rules

876. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has asked for amending the coastal regulation Zone Rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Kerala has requested for modifications in the scope, applicability and implementation of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991.

(c) A committee had been appointed under the Chairmanship of Prof. N. Balakrishnan Nair to examine the representation of Government of Kerala. The CRZ Notification was amended vide S.O. No. 494 (E) dated 9th July, 1997 incorporating some of the recommendations of the Committee.

Radio-Collaring of a Tigress

877. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether radio-collaring of a tigress with their cubs in Panna Tiger Reserve on January 17, 1997, has been done;

(b) if so, whether the same was done without specific permission from the Government;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor including the risk involved to the Tiger and cubs due to this;

(d) whether the procedure of Radio-collaring was allowed to be photographed by a BBC Photographer; and

(e) if so, the reasons and justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Merger of Five Major Dock Labour Boards

878. SHRI ANNASAHIB M. K. PATIL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated action for merger of five major dock labour boards consequent upon passage of the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Amendment Bill, 1948 in the Lok Sabha;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith reaction of the concerned port trusts for change over to the proposed restructuring of organisation; and

(c) the implications of implementation of proposed merger, present status of actual implementation?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The management of respective port trusts and dock labour boards are holding negotiations with the respective labour unions for obtaining their consent.

(c) After the actual merger of the dock labour boards with the port trusts, it will ensure single handling agency for cargo and facilitate deployment of unified gangs to obtain higher productivity and reduce handling cost.

[Translation]

Utilization of UGC Funds

879. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some universities have not been able to fully utilize the funds allocated by the University Grants Commission during the current financial year;